

# The Planning Inspectorate – Manston Airport

Open Floor Hearing 3 – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019 – Simon Crow

Good afternoon, Mr MacDonald

My name is Simon Crow. I am strongly opposed to this proposal from RiverOak Strategic Partners.

Mr Chairman, I am not here and now going to present any specific evidence against the RSP proposal. That has been extensively covered elsewhere. In particular, I would point to the overwhelming documentary evidence provided to you by the No Night Flights group. But, I do want to give you my personal experience. That's all.

So, I am not going to mention the devastating impact of the noise from low flying freighters right over the centre of Ramsgate. I am not even going to mention RSP's repeated denials of the need for night flights, yet now confirming that need in the latest responses to you. Nor am I going to mention that the business case for the DCO rests exclusively on one person's personal view of aviation at Manston, with no corroboration and, indeed, four independent aviation experts saying the plan is simply not credible.

No, but I would like to relate my personal experience here in Ramsgate.

Five years ago, my wife and I wished to move to Thanet. We eventually selected to live in Ramsgate, fully aware of the history of Manston Airport and the fact that the flightpath is directly over the town centre. In December 2014, after Thanet District Council rejected RiverOak's application for a Compulsory Purchase Order, only then did we sign and proceed with our property purchase in Ramsgate. I have to say, we love Ramsgate. It is a fantastic place to live!

However, at the end of last year, when the Planning Inspectorate decided to proceed with this DCO, we concluded there was too high a risk that RSP's plans for Manston could indeed happen. So, we have now moved and left Ramsgate for good.

People ask me what do I feel about that. And I say I am deeply saddened. And to be honest I'm even very angry that we've been forced to leave this lovely place by this crazy scheme from RSP!!

Sir, I am profoundly worried for the people of Ramsgate and others living under the flight path. And I am also really concerned that the RSP plan is being sponsored by a bunch of misguided opportunists, led by a struck-off solicitor who has been a serial failure in both the aviation and travel industries, and with apparent funding from a secretive source in Belize.

So, in conclusion, Mr Chairman, I would ask you and your team to consider carefully whether we are simply looking here at a serious case of naïve optimism on the part of RiverOak Strategic Partners.

That's all. Thank you.